Remarks/Arguments

The specification has been amended to correct obvious clerical errors.

Claim 7 has been amended to refer to the additive (Z) as being in solid, insoluble form in the coating such as to cause friction. Support for the amendment is self evident from the description throughout the specification and original claims. For example from paragraph [0015] because an additive in solution does not have a well-defined surface. Moreover, an additive in solution obviously cannot increase the friction between the covering layer and the core. Increasing the friction is only possible with solids, not with solutions or liquids.

The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krasner in view of Krinski et al. is respectfully traversed.

In applicants' last response they explained that there is a fundamental difference between a friction increasing and a velocity increasing additive. Friction and viscosity are different physical phenomena. Sand in an adhesive causes friction between adjacent layers. A viscosity increasing additive, such as the soy polysaccharide taught by Krinski et al., lowers the flowability of the adhesive. However, when in the lamination process the temperature is increased, a high viscosity will not help because viscosity lowers (flowability increases) with rising temperature. On the other hand, friction caused by sand is not influenced by temperature. It is just as in an engine: sand in the oil will cause friction and may destroy the engine whereas a viscosity increasing additive in the oil improves the lubricating effect at higher temperatures. The key function of the friction increasing additive Z according to the present invention is to avoid the shifting of the adhesive coating relative to the printed layer sandwiched therebetween, see section [0011] of the published application. Such shift or drift causes the text to become blurred and to loose its in contours. In order to avoid this effect, the adhesive layer contains a solid, friction causing material, one of the materials mentioned in the specification being sand, see section [0014], last sentence.

However, when in the lamination process the temperature is increased, a high viscosity will not help because viscosity lowers (flowability increases) with rising temperature. On the other hand, friction caused by sand is not influenced by temperature. It is just as in an engine: sand in the oil will cause friction and may destroy the engine whereas a viscosity increasing additive in the oil improves the lubricating effect at higher temperatures.

Referring to the prior art, the Examiner combines Krasner with Krinski et al., but no matter what the skill of the skilled artisan referred to by the Examiner, he or she still needs an incentive to make the combination suggested by the Examiner, which is based only on applicants' disclosure. Krasner does not disclose a printed layer but a light sensitive film. Therefore, the undesired displacement of the adhesive coatings, including the printed layer, does not arise in Krasner.

Even more fundamental, the skilled artisan has no incentive to combine Krasner and Krinski et al. to solve this problem. Krinski et al. do not deal with high lamination temperatures. In fact they prefer adhesive compositions having cold setting characteristics in order to avoid the use of heat (col. 1, lines 33 – 39 and 66). Moreover, their silicate adhesive composition is an aqueous solution of an alkaline metal silicate (col. 2, lines 46 – 50 or col. 3, lines 18 - 19). Alkaline metal silicates are also known as water glass or liquid glass and can be used as adhesives. Obviously a solution is totally unsuitable for increasing the friction between the covering layer and the card core and to prevent undesired displacement. Krinski et al. do not give any hint that addition of silicates could increase the friction. On the contrary, Krinski et al. teach directly away from the invention because of the use of aqueous solutions of alkaline metal silicates. The characteristics of these silicates are very different from the solid, insoluble silicates of the invention, such as talcum.

The rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krasner in view of Takeuchi et al. is respectfully traversed. Here, too, the skilled artisan has no incentive to combine Kranser and Takeuchi et al. who use calcium carbonate and talc in order to produce a fragile layer wherein the addition of fine powder makes the layer even more fragile (col. 13, lines 46 – 55). The fragile layer is for effecting destruction during peeling for the purpose of preventing forgery. Obviously, the addition of calcium carbonate or talc is for a totally different purpose than the present invention which adds it to increase the friction between the card core and the covering layer during a lamination process in order to avoid undesired displacement. In fact Takeuchi et al. do not deal with the problem of lamination of multi-layer identity cards at all.

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowance.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-3881, under Order No. 7004-102N1. If an extension of time is required please consider this a petition and charge any additional fees which may be required to deposit account No. 50-3881. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: July 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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